

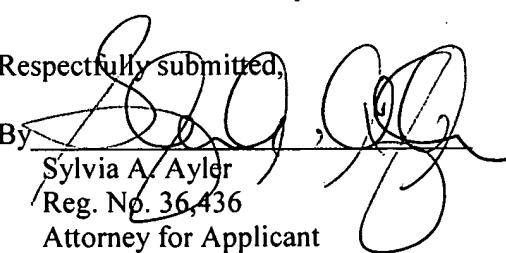
REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9 and 12-15 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for adding the proviso language at the end of claim 1 without support in the specification. By this amendment claim 1 has been amended to delete the proviso language.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification is not enabling for treating macular edema, macular degeneration, increasing retinal and optic nerve head blood velocity, increasing retinal and optic nerve oxygen tension and/or providing a neuroprotective effect in a patient in need thereof. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice to refile.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,990,146; 6,531,484; 6,248,755; 6,352,985; and 4,212,876. The Examiner states that formula I in column 2 of '146 (Boschelli et al.) teaches the instant compounds. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the definition of "r" is 1-6 and to replace the "n" in $(CH_2)_nR_9$ in the definition of "W" with 1-3. No new matter has been added as support for "r" being 1-6 and "n" being 1-3 for $(CH_2)_nR_9$ are found in the specification. These amendments remove any overlap with '146. Regarding '484 (Willoughby et al) and '876 (Houlihan), the amendment to "r" and "W" as indicated herein also eliminate any overlap with '484 and '876. Regarding '985 (Yamasaki et al), claim 1 has been further amended to delete " C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl" and " $S(O)_qR_y$ " from the definition of R_4 and R_5 to remove any overlap. R^3 of '985 requires a carboxyl, carbonyl, amino or sulfonyl substituents at this position. The instantly amended invention does not provide for such substitution. Thus, none of the compounds disclosed in '985 fall within the instantly claimed invention.

As a result of the amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the examiners concerns have been met and overcome. The examiner is therefore respectively requested to remove the objections and rejections. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below, if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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